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## News Release

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### **IDAVILLE CELEBRATES MAJOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Idaville (#02-17; 4-22-2002): Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development announced in Washington D. C. on Earth Day, April 22, investments of over \$108 million of USDA funds for 46 water and waste water disposal system improvement projects in 34 states. Locally, Idaville residents received the good news on Earth Day that they will share in this USDA Rural Development funding.

The announcement was made at a meeting held at the Idaville Fire Station to finalize the details for a \$1,412,500 grant and a \$526,000 low interest loan provided by USDA Rural Development to Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District (RSD) for the Idaville wastewater disposal project. Bob White, Indiana State Director, USDA Rural Development, presented a check for the funding at the meeting to Art Anderson, President, Twin Lakes RSD Board of Trustees, and Darlene Danford, Treasurer, who lives in Idaville.

White said, "Congratulations to Idaville and Twin Lakes RSD for their work together on this important project. USDA considers every day an opportunity to celebrate Earth Day by assisting rural families enhance their quality of life through our housing, business and community facility programs. We are especially pleased to assist communities like Idaville that invest in its future by protecting the area's natural resources today. This project will enhance Idaville's economic vitality and the health of its residents."

Idaville will have approximately 170 users of the new system. The town prepared a feasibility study of this project using a planning grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce. Idaville chose to become part of the Twin Lakes RSD instead of forming its own sewer district. Current wastewater treatment in Idaville is handled by failing individual septic systems. Small lot sizes and soil conditions in Idaville make it very difficult to have properly sized and functioning septic systems. Drinking water is obtained from private wells that are threatened with contamination. Water samples taken from Idaville area ditches confirmed a level of e-coli that exceeded the maximum level allowed by state water quality standards. E-coli is an indicator of fecal contamination. This new wastewater disposal service provided by Twin Lakes RSD will eliminate the present risk that these conditions pose to public health.

In the last four years alone, USDA Rural Development has invested nearly \$160 million in loans and grants for 87 water and wastewater system projects in rural Indiana. USDA is also a funding partner with Twin Lakes RSD on the recently completed wastewater disposal project at Big Monon Bay. Single family home loans, rural rental housing, water and waste water facility funding, business and industry loans, and community facility loans and grants are financial resources available from USDA Rural Development. Questions concerning USDA Rural Development services in this area can be directed to USDA Rural Development, 188 Professional Court, Lafayette, IN 47905-5105; phone 765-448-1805, extension 4.

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